



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
University of Alberta Libraries

In this issue:

September 2003

Recent EUB publications and decisions	2
New legislation gives EUB broader powers	3
EUB opens Fort McMurray Regional Office	3
Questions, complaints, problems? Who to contact	4
Upcoming public hearings	4
Pending decisions	4

New Group Name - Geology and Reserves Group

Effective immediately, the former Resource Appraisal Group will be referred to as the Geology and Reserves Group. The new name better reflects the role and scope of the group and eliminates internal and external confusion between the Resource Appraisal Group and the Resources Applications Group, both of which had the acronym RAG. The new acronym for the Geology and Reserves Group is GRG.

The Geology and Reserves Group is within the Resources Branch. It provides geological advice to the Board and conducts independent assessments of oil, oil sands, gas, and coal reserves in Alberta.

No changes to phone numbers or e-mail addresses will occur.

About the EUB

Our mission is to ensure that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's resources take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest. We regulate oil, natural gas, oil sands, coal, hydro and electric energy, pipelines, and transmission line development. On the utilities side, we regulate investor-owned natural gas, electric, and water utilities to ensure that customers receive safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates. Regulation is done through four core functions: adjudication and regulation, applications, surveillance and enforcement, and information.

EUB honoured in Blackfoot naming ceremonies

EUB BOARD MEMBER TOM McGee and Field Surveillance Branch Communications Coordinator Rob Barber have now been recognized in separate Blackfoot naming ceremonies where they were given names that reflect their dedication and commitment to

Aboriginal communities. Both men have worked along with their colleagues to improve relationships with over 44 Aboriginal communities and groups throughout the province.

McGee and Barber received this personal and professional honour at the Calgary Stampede Indian Village Camp in 2002 and 2003 respectively. McGee was given the Blackfoot name Ennee Suhkoomabee, or Buffalo Boy, and Barber was given the Blackfoot name Niipoomahkii Suhkoomabee, or Chickadee Boy.

Dr. Reg Crowshoe, a respected elder of the Piikani Nation of southern Alberta, conducted both naming ceremonies. Dr. Crowshoe explains, "The significance of the names always comes from a story which is passed down orally from elders."

Buffalo Boy comes from a story of when the Blackfoot tribe was concerned about the approaching winter and the scarcity of buffalo to help them through the season. Many people feared they would not survive. On the way back from collecting water from the Bow River, a woman heard singing. Following the singing, she discovered it was coming from a small stone. She gathered some soft moss, placed the stone in the middle of it, and carried it

to her camp, where she offered it to the elders. The elders had a meeting and the stone revealed to them, through the song, where the buffalo were. The elders then organized a hunting party, and the buffalo were right where the buffalo stone song told them they would be.

Buffalo Boy comes from a story of when the Blackfoot tribe was concerned about the approaching winter and the scarcity of buffalo to help them through the season.

The buffalo stone song saved the tribe from starvation, freezing, and death.

It was the helpful act of the buffalo stone that inspired Dr. Crowshoe to bestow the name of Ennee Suhkoomabee, or Buffalo Boy, to McGee for his willingness to help people in need.

Barber earned his Blackfoot name from his dedication to developing working relations with the Aboriginal communities and a great desire to learn about the Aboriginal people and their culture.

Niipoomahkii Suhkoomabee, or Chickadee Boy, originated from a story of a flock of chickadees that swarmed a group of children and the woman in charge of them as they walked along a river. Once the chickadees swarmed the children, they would fly ahead and land. When the children resumed walking, the chickadees would swarm the children, fly ahead, and land again. This continued four times, and then the chickadees left.

When the group returned, the woman asked an elder about the significance of what had happened, and he explained that the chickadee spirit world was communicating with the children.

This story shows two worlds meeting—

(continued on page 2)

For Your Information...**Recent EUB publications****General Bulletins**

August 21: GB 2003-30: EUB Spatial Data Conversion to NAD83

August 1: GB 2003-29: New Guide 20: Well Abandonment Guide now available on EUB Web site

Informational directives

August 19: ID 2003-02: Large Upstream Oil and Gas Facilities: Interim Transfer Review Process

Other publications

August 22: Bitumen Conservation Procedural Direction Phase II: Expedited Review of Exemptions Proceedings

August 22: Bitumen Conservation Letters and List of Exemption Notifications

August 13: ST-59: Alberta Drilling Activity Monthly Statistics (June 2003)

August 1: Guide 20: Well Abandonment Guide (August 2003)

August 7: Public Safety and Sour Gas (PS&SG) Project Recommendation 5: Investigate improved coordination between surface and subsurface planning:

1) Letter from Neil McCrank, EUB Chairman, to Gerry DeSorcy, Advisory Committee Chairman, 2) Terms of reference, 3) Background report: An Overview of Initiatives Taken in the Calgary Area to Coordinate the Recovery of Sour Gas Reserves with Surface Development

July 30: LLR Program Performance Summary (July 2003)

July 29: ST 2003-28: Alberta Electric Industry Annual Statistics for 2002

July 23: Guide 14: PVT and Core Studies Index (July 2003)

Recent decisions

August 20: Decision 2003-063: The EUB issues a decision for ATCO Pipelines North and South regarding a proposal for an interim exchange fee rate cap.

The exchange service is offered by ATCO Pipelines when gas is intended for delivery to Nova Gas Transmission Ltd (NGTL) to ensure that customers (producers) do not have to pay toll charges on both pipelines. Gas that would otherwise be physically delivered to NGTL through an interconnection is exchanged through an inventory transfer.

August 12: Decision 2003-046 Addendum: The EUB issues an addendum to Decision 2003-046 for Vermillion Resources Ltd., Clear Energy Inc., and TUSK

Energy Inc. regarding a rateable take order for wells in the Shane Kiskatinaw D Pool and a special off-target penalty. The addendum gives reasons for the decision.

(The EUB may limit, if necessary, the total amount of gas that may be produced from a pool. A rateable take order applies to all wells in a pool. Off-target wells may impact the production of other wells in the pool.)

August 12: The EUB issues a decision for EPCOR Energy Services Inc. regarding its request to commence negotiation of its 2004 to 2005 Regulated Rate Tariff for customers in the EPCOR Distribution Inc. (EDI) service area (residential and small commercial customers in the City of Edmonton).

(The Regulated Rate Tariff offers certain consumers the opportunity to continue to purchase electricity at a regulated rate during the transition to a competitive electricity retail market.)

August 3: Decision 2003-061: The EUB issues a decision for AltaLink Management Ltd. and TransAlta Utilities Corporation regarding general tariff applications for May 1, 2002, to April 30, 2004, and for TransAlta Utilities Corporation for January 1 to April 30, 2002.

July 29: Decision 2003-060: The EUB issues a decision for AltaGas Utilities Inc. regarding a request for approval to commence a negotiated settlement process for Phase 1 of its 2003/2004 General Rate Application.

(A General Rate Application (GRA) (or General Tariff Application) is filed with the EUB and is assessed to ensure that the utility company's rates are appropriate, reasonable, and fair to the public. In a Phase I utility proceeding of a General Rate Application, the Board sets an overall revenue requirement for a utility. This revenue requirement is the revenue needed to cover all costs, including a fair return on investment. In Phase II proceedings, the revenue requirement determined in Phase I is allocated among each of the rate classes (residential, commercial, and industrial) that the utility serves, and rates are established based on that allocation.)

Recent AGS publications

August 12: GEO 2002-14: Sedimentology and Stratigraphy of Middle and Upper Devonian Carbonates in Northern Alberta: a contribution to the carbonate-hosted Pb-Zn (MVT) targeted geo-science initiative

August 12: SPE 21 Structural Interpretation of RADARSAT-1 Principal Components Imagery and Its Potential Application to Kimberlite Exploration in the Buffalo Head Hills Area, North Central Alberta

EUB honoured in Blackfoot naming ceremonies

(continued from page 1)

the chickadee spirit world and the human world of learning, represented by the children. The Chickadee Society today is able to understand and analyze both worlds.

Dr. Crowshoe explains that Rob is learning and continues to understand the Indian perspective through his work at the EUB. "Rob and his organization are based in a Western written society, but because his organization believes in our traditional knowledge, the Chickadee Boy is the one in the middle who's going to learn both sides."

EUB Chairman Neil McCrank says, "A top priority of the EUB is strengthening Aboriginal relationships." Mr. Strater Crowfoot, a former Chief of the Siksika Nation and presently CEO of Indian Oil and Gas Canada (IOGC), recognizes those efforts. Crowfoot states, "IOGC staff have worked very closely with the EUB staff over the past two years to inform First Nations of the EUB's roles and responsibilities regarding public safety related to the oil and gas industry activities in and around First Nations lands...and I strongly support this cooperative approach and recognize the EUB's efforts in establishing working relationships with Aboriginal communities and IOGC."

The EUB currently has an Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the Board with representatives from each treaty area and the Metis community. As well, the EUB conducts Aboriginal awareness training for EUB staff, ensures that effective communication plans are in place for Aboriginal communities, and has recruited three Aboriginal staff to assist with this work. ❖

New legislation gives EUB broader powers

THE RECENTLY ENACTED Electric Utilities Act 2003 gives the EUB broader powers to ensure that Albertans receive quality utility service at just and reasonable rates.

In the past, the EUB has set rates and terms and conditions of service for customers of investor-owned utilities.

Municipally owned utilities and cooperatively owned utilities, such as

rural gas co-ops and rural electrification associations, or REAs, have not been subject to EUB authority. However, under the new Electric Utilities Act, effective January 1, 2004, rates for municipally owned electric utilities with retail affiliates offering competitive contracts to customers outside the municipal boundaries must be approved by the EUB. Since both EPCOR and ENMAX have retail affiliates offering services across the province, the EUB will now have full jurisdiction over their rates. The EUB will determine the distribution tariffs, regulated rate tariffs, and terms and conditions of service for EPCOR and ENMAX. It will also in the future be setting transmission tariffs for the first time for the cities of Calgary, Lethbridge, and Red Deer. This will help provide a level playing field for electric utilities across the province and allow rates to be established in an open and transparent public hearing process.

The new legislation also provides the EUB with better tools to ensure that Albertans receive quality utility service. While owners of electric utilities have always been required to provide safe and adequate service, it is only with the proclamation of the new Electric Utilities Act on June 1, 2003, that the EUB has gained the legislative authority to make and enforce rules respecting service quality standards. This legislation gives the EUB explicit authority to make rules respecting service quality standards, including the standard of service to be maintained

and how the standard is to be measured. It additionally provides for the imposition of credits to customers as compensation for an owner's failure to meet the rules respecting service quality standards. The EUB is currently in the process of developing these measures and standards for electric distribution companies and retailers,

including EPCOR and ENMAX.

These utilities will be required to submit

reports to the EUB on a regular basis to enable the Board to measure their performance in providing quality customer service against established service quality benchmarks. Through ongoing monitoring of utility service performance and the possible future imposition of penalties when service does not meet established standards,

the EUB will be able to ensure that Albertans receive the quality of service they deserve.

Extending EUB jurisdiction over EPCOR and ENMAX will also allow the Board to fully investigate all complaints by customers of these utilities. In the past, the Board's complaint jurisdiction respecting municipally owned utilities has been limited to certain specific circumstances. Effective January 1, 2004, the EUB will be able to provide customers of EPCOR and ENMAX with full assistance in resolving all their billing and service concerns. Further details respecting the EUB's utility complaint process are available on our Web site at <www.eub.gov.ab.ca>. ❖

The new legislation also provides the EUB with better tools to ensure that Albertans receive quality utility service.

EUB opens Fort McMurray Regional Office

THE EUB'S NEW FORT McMurray Regional Office is officially open for business. Construction of temporary office space on the second floor of the Provincial Building was completed ahead of schedule in late August and staff began working from the office the same week. Currently, there are 10 employees working from the office in two main areas: mining and processing.

The Fort McMurray Office will be responsible for the following functions associated with oil sands mining:

- Applications Processing
- Operational Surveillance
- Field Surveillance
- Environmental Services
- Aboriginal Relations
- Geology and Reserves

At this time, the office currently only handles issues related to oil sands mining. In situ and other applications will continue to be processed from head office in Calgary.

With a great deal of work such as the construction of temporary offices and the relocation of staff behind the Fort McMurray team, greater challenges still lie ahead.

"Having a stronger presence in Fort McMurray shows that the Board is on the front lines, working for Albertans," said Harry Lillo, Executive Manager, Fort McMurray Regional Office. "However, as we continue working with the oil sands industry, it is critical that we reach out to become a part of the greater Fort McMurray community. That's a big part of what we are here to do."

The EUB plans to expand the office to 20 employees and construct permanent office space on the 2nd floor of the Provincial Building next year. ❖

Fort McMurray Regional Office
9915 Franklin Avenue
Provincial Building, 2nd Floor
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K4

Phone: (780) 742-2032
Fax: (780) 742-2031

This list is subject to change at any time, so please check the complete list of upcoming public hearings on the EUB Web site at <www.eub.gov.ab.ca/bbs/applications/hearings/hearings.pdf>. If you do not have Internet access, contact EUB Information Services at (403) 297-8190.

Upcoming public hearings

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada



3 3286 52890420 0

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1095525	Stylus Exploration Inc.	Approval to produce gas - Hardy Field
1095526		
1095602		
1275288		
Start Date: October 1 at Metropolitan Centre, 333 - 4 Avenue SW, Calgary		
1306237	Brigus Resources Ltd.	Cumulative pooling - Killam Field
	Tasman Exploration Ltd.	
Start Date: October 2 at Govier Hall, Energy and Utilities Board Building, 640 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary		
1307282	Bearspaw Petroleum Ltd.	Cumulative pooling - Crossfield Field
Start Date: October 3 at Govier Hall, Energy and Utilities Board Building, 640 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary		
1271285	Shell Canada Ltd.	Jackpine Mine - Phase I - Fort McMurray area
1271307		
1271383		
Start Date: October 6 at Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre, 530 McKenzie Blvd., Fort McMurray		
1304833	Northrock Resources Ltd.	Cumulative pooling - Homegren Rimbey Field
1305584	ConocoPhillips Canada Corp.	
Start Date: October 8 at Govier Hall, Energy and Utilities Board Building, 640 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary		
1279980	CalAlta Waterworks Ltd.	Review the rates, tolls, charges and terms and conditions of service for water provided by CalAlta Waterworks
Start Date: October 9 at Govier Hall, Energy and Utilities Board Building, 640 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary		
1299749	NAL Resources Ltd.	To construct and operate two salt water pipelines
Start Date: October 15 at Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites, 1307 - 2 Street West, Brooks		
1302342	Rubicon Energy Corp.	Application for a licence to drill a sour well - Ghost Pine Field
Start Date: October 15 at Drumheller Inn, 100 South Railway Avenue, Drumheller		

Pending decisions

Application No.	Applicant	Hearing Purpose
1279895	Globex Resources Ltd.	Application for licence to drill a sour gas well and to construct and operate a single well sweet gas battery and a natural gas pipeline - Gordondale area
1303136		
1303138		
1285881	ATCO Group	ATCO-I Tek information technology master service agreement
1275466	ATCO Gas North and ATCO Gas South	Combined 2003-2004 General Rate Application
1275494	ATCO Electric Ltd.	2003-2005 General Tariff Application, Rate Case
1275539		Deferrals, 2001 Deferral Application
1275540		
1290683	Alberta Electric System Operator	2003 General Tariff Application (Negotiated Settlement)
1303342	Aquila Networks Canada (Alberta) Ltd.	2002 Transmission Deferral Account
1287577	City of Grande Prairie	Review of proposed Standard Natural Gas Franchise Agreement
1287571	ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd.	
1292783	ATCO Pipelines North, South	2003-2004 General Rate Application
1257976	Aquila Networks Canada (Alberta) Ltd.	Review and Variance of Board Decision 2001-92, 2001-93

across the board is published by the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB). Information in this publication may be reproduced or quoted without permission as long as the EUB is credited.

Across the Board subscriptions

Call (403) 297-8970 or e-mail <acrosstheboard@gov.ab.ca> to receive *Across the Board* by e-mail or mail or to update your subscription contact information. All issues are also available on our Web site at <www.eub.gov.ab.ca>.

Tell us how we're doing

Please send your comments and suggestions to <acrosstheboard@gov.ab.ca>.

For EUB publications or inquiries, contact: EUB Information Services

640-5 Avenue SW, Main Floor
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G4
Telephone: (403) 297-8190* Fax: (403) 297-7040
E-mail: <eub.info_services@eub.gov.ab.ca>
EUB Web site: <www.eub.gov.ab.ca>

Information Services sales and pickup counter service is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Phone orders may be placed between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please note that most documents may be viewed at Information Services or on our Web site for free, but there are fees for a paper copy of many publications.

For Alberta Geological Survey (AGS) documents on geological research:

Information Sales
4th Floor, Twin Atria, 4999-98th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
Telephone: (780) 422-1927* Fax: (780) 422-1918
E-mail: <EUB.AGS-InfoSales@gov.ab.ca>
Web: <www.ags.gov.ab.ca>

Questions, complaints, problems?

Utilities: For information or to file a consumer utility complaint, contact us at:
EUB Utilities Branch, 10th floor, 10055-106 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Y2
Fax: (780) 427-6970
Complaints: (780) 427-4903*
E-mail: <utilities.concerns@eub.gov.ab.ca>

Oil and gas: For information or complaints about new or existing oil and gas developments and facilities, we recommend contacting the operating company first. If the company does not respond appropriately, you may contact the nearest EUB Field Centre.

EUB Field Centres (24-hour service)

Bonnyville	(780) 826-5352*
Drayton Valley	(780) 542-5182*
Grande Prairie	(780) 538-5138*
Medicine Hat	(403) 527-3385*
Midnapore	(403) 297-8303*
Red Deer	(403) 340-5454*
St. Albert	(780) 460-3800*
Wainwright	(780) 842-7570*

*To call toll free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000 and enter the phone number, including area code, or press zero for a RITE operator.

Across the Board Advisory Committee

Dick Batten, Marilyn Craig, Diane Earle, Greg Gilbertson,
Barbara Kapel Holden, Becky Torrance
Editor: Brenda Poole Bellows

